

Justification of Need

US 158 is a major corridor in Currituck County, connecting the western part of the county, near Camden County and Elizabeth City with the southern region of the county as well as Dare County. South of the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge site, this existing facility is the primary north-south connector. The facility is a vital artery in moving people and goods through North Carolina, connecting northern North Carolina and Virginia with the northern outer banks region of North Carolina.

US 158 is currently a 5-lane boulevard from the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge to the Dare County line. US 158 is designated as a Boulevard from NC 168 to Dare County, based on the SHC Vision Plan, in order to improve regional and statewide mobility and connectivity.

By 2035, the facility is projected to be near capacity from Fisher Landing Road (SR 1124) to Snow Lane (SR 1115) and from Church Road (SR 1107) to the Dare County line, based on a capacity of LOS D. Traffic from Fisher Landing Road (SR 1124) to the Snow Lane (SR 1115) is projected to increase from 14,000 vpd in 2009 to 28,300 vpd in 2035, compared to a capacity of 37,600 vpd. Traffic from Church Road (SR 1107) to the Dare County line is projected to increase from 17,000 vpd in 2009 to 31,700 vpd in 2035, compared to a capacity of 37,600 vpd.

Community Vision and Problem History

Currently, US 158 is a five-lane boulevard from NC 168 to Dare County. The facility is used heavily by tourists travelling to the Outer Banks. Residents who live in the southern portion of Currituck County use this facility to access jobs and other amenities throughout the area. The continuous middle turn lane creates potential safety problems at various at-grade intersections as well as at many private access roads.

CTP Project Proposal

Project Description

The proposed project (Local ID: CURR-0001-H) is to improve the existing 5-lane boulevard to a 4-lane divided boulevard from the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge to the Dare County line.

The proposed improvements to US 158 will help to reduce congestion between Virginia and Dare County. Additionally, it will fulfill the SHC Vision Plan.

Linkages to Other Plans and Proposed Project History

The improvement proposal for US 158 is an important link to many of the recommendations in the Currituck County CTP. It directly connects to the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge, as well as the proposed improvements of NC 168 and of US 158, northwest of the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge. The 1999 Currituck County Thoroughfare Plan recommends this segment of US 158 as a 6-lane divided facility. For the future year 2035, it was found that six lanes are not warranted for this facility, and that by providing neighborhood connectivity along the corridor a 4-lane divided boulevard would be the most appropriate solution.

The SHC Vision Plan was originally adopted by NCDOT on September 2, 2004 and updated on July 10, 2008. In this plan, US 158 is designated to be improved in Currituck County to